

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the above-referenced patent application. Claims 1-6 and 8-10 have been rejected, and claim 7 has been objected to. Via this response, claim 1 has been amended and claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 have been cancelled.

Fig. 1 has been amended, a red-lined drawing showing the changes made to FIG. 1 is attached hereto. Applicant will submit formal drawings upon an indication of allowable subject matter. No new matter has been added via this response.

The Examiner has objected to claim 1 due to informalities therein. Applicant has addressed the issues raised by the Examiner, thereby obviating this objection.

The Examiner has rejected claims 2, 9 and 10 under 25 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner states that the "specification does not appear clear and complete as to a spacer or spacers coupled to the foundation form and located so that when said first and second connecting members are positioned on respective foundation forms the spacer acts as a stop to properly locate each of said connecting members. Applicant has amended FIG. 1 to associate element 24 with the spacers shown therein. The spacers, as is claimed, are attached to the foundation forms so as to act as a stop for the first and second connecting members and thereby aids in their proper alignment relative to one another when they are attached to the foundation. The spacers can be mounted on the forms in any conventional manner known to those of ordinary skill in the art. For example, depending on the material from which the forms are made, they can be welded, screwed nailed, etc. This list is intended to be exemplary only, to aid the Examiner's understanding and is in no way intended to be exhaustive.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 2, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and

distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner states that it is not clear as to "a spacer or spacers coupled to the foundation form and located so that when said first and second connecting members are positioned on respective foundation forms the spacer acts as a stop to properly locate each of said connecting members." As stated above, Applicant has amended FIG. 1 to associate element 24 with the spacers shown therein. The spacers, as is claimed, are attached to the foundation forms so as to act as a stop for the first and second connecting members and thereby aids in their proper alignment relative to one another when they are attached to the foundation. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the issues raised by the Examiner have been addressed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

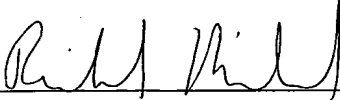
The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 and 8, as well as claims 1, 3-5, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b). In addition, the Examiner has rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). However, the Examiner has also indicated that claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 7 as well as any intervening claims. Therefore, claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Since the remaining claims all ultimately depend from claim 1, they are also allowable.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that the pending claims in the instant patent application are in condition for allowance. Should any matter remain unresolved with the filing of this amendment, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's representative at the number listed below.

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Amdt. dated Dec. 22, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Sept. 22, 2004

While Applicant believes no fees are due with the filing of this Amendment, Applicant requests that any deficiencies in fees be charged to the Deposit Account No. 503342.

Respectfully submitted,

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